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line before and after.

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Tara Delaney
Italian 120
December 11, 1997

Excessive Lust

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passive role of the protagonist, who simply must go along with the situations as his role dictates.

How long are you going to let yourself be dragged passively by the plot? You have flung yourself into the action, filled with adventurous impulses: and then? Your function was quickly reduced to that of one who records situations decided by others, who submits to whims, finds himself involved in events that elude his control. Then what use is role as protagonist to you? If you continue lending yourself to this game, it means that you, too, are an accomplice of the general mystification. (p. 218)

Ironically, this serves only to further his role as protagonist, since the "author" dictated that he should sleep with the heroine's sister in the previous chapter, "... he must encounter some other woman on his way. Perhaps the Other Reader could have a sister...." (p. 198) He also acts as a means of detaching the reader from the novel since he is referred to as "you," "Reader," or simply "protagonist." "You're the absolute protagonist of this book." (p. 219) This makes it impossible for the reader to identify with the protagonist because the reader does not, cannot honestly believe themselves to be the protagonist, especially if someone or thing keeps telling them they are.

Ludamilla is the heroine of our novel and, lacking a personality, has a clear cut function. She acts as the woman that our protagonist will fall in love with and as a means of getting our protagonist closer (or farther) from the end of the ten novels. Every time he finds a new novel that might solve the riddle of the missing ending he is enthusiastic to share his discovery with Ludamilla. He, in essence, makes the journey for her. She appears to possibly have a very cold, detached personality. She hurts the protagonist's feelings by saying, "There's no need for both of us to confront them. You go and then report," (p. 46) telling him to go to the publisher's alone. But after a close examination it is not a cold personality she

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